

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE ACTIVITIES

December 19, 2006

6:00 PM

Chairman Roy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, O'Neil, Lopez, Osborne, Forest

Messrs.: K. Sheppard, J. McLaughlin, P. Corcoran

Chairman Roy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Copy of a communication from Frank Thomas, Public Works Director, to Robert Koenig relative to a request for city trash receptacles in the vicinity of Central High School.

Alderman Lopez asked Kevin Sheppard to come forward and asked why is this coming to us.

Kevin Sheppard, Deputy Public Works Director, answered it was a request from a resident at that address asking that we put additional trash cans on the street around Central High School and this was the response from Mr. Thomas back to that resident basically informing him that our trash cans are pretty much limited to the downtown area and if we start expanding to Central and then West and Memorial basically we don't have the funds to do that.

Alderman Lopez asked we don't do it any other place in the City is that what we are saying.

Mr. Sheppard answered not public cans.

Alderman Forest asked doesn't the School Department have a contract with Waste Management.

Mr. Sheppard answered on their site they do have trash cans. This was actually to expand to some of the side streets like Ash Street and areas like that.

Alderman Osborne stated I think this particular situation around schools...I guess it was mentioned here in the letter that education is a big thing in the area with the kids and also it is always policing. We have no littering signs in a lot of places. It is just enforcement. I think \$500 is enough and I don't think we should increase it anymore than that. I don't think it would make much difference. It is just a matter of enforcing the ordinance.

Alderman O'Neil moved to receive and file the communication. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. Chairman Roy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Roy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Updates to be presented as follows:

- Recycling tonnages since March;
- Yard waste (completed for the season);
- Christmas trees (pick-up in January);
- CRT landfill ban effective July 1, 2007 (video display devices greater than 4 inches banned from landfills); and
- Corcoran: progress with CMA Engineers and MRF permit.

Joanne McLaughlin, Recycling Coordinator, stated we are going to take this opportunity to update you on what the recycling and yard waste programs are doing these days. As you may recall, we entered into a new contract in the month of March with Corcoran Environmental and I have Patrick Corcoran here beside me. Our yard waste season started in April. We also went to a weekly program in March for curbside recycling collection. All in all what we have seen so far is a 6% increase in the amount of paper, which is cardboard, paper, newspaper and magazines and an average increase of 11% in the co-mingled containers. Moving along, the yard waste season just finished. We were doing weekly collections up until December 1. I have to tell you that we have certainly gotten a lot fewer complaints than we have in the past, although the yard waste season did extend through December 1 giving people the long holiday weekend to rake. The weather was very cooperative and I hear from our Chief of Highways that there was very little comparatively left on the street after the season ended. I would also like to remind everyone that in January, the first two weeks of January, we have our Christmas tree pick up. The last item is I wanted to inform you that in May of this year the NH State Legislature voted to ban all CRT, computer monitors and televisions or any video display device that is greater than 4" diagonally from being landfilled so as of July 1, 2007 we can no longer landfill any computer monitors or televisions and that would include any kind of plasma or crystal or any kind of TV's that are out there right now.

Alderman Forest stated I personally can see a real major problem with this.

Ms. McLaughlin asked which one.

Alderman Forest answered the CRT's. I realize that the Legislature has banned this but we are going to find these on the side of the road and again my area, you know drywall heaven there, I think that happened with the tires when the landfill wouldn't accept those and I see a major problem occurring with this.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that is why I am raising a flag.

Alderman Forest stated we have to do something about this.

Ms. McLaughlin replied I am talking to a number of vendors right now who do provide this kind of service but as you know we got a jump start on this. We started collecting electronics at the drop-off about three years ago and we average about 5,000 lbs./month of computer monitors and televisions and computer peripherals so really in terms of collecting what is out there right now we do have a program that has been going on for three years so we feel comfortable about that. Of course with the new landfill ban there are a lot of companies around that are looking to get the City's 5,000 lbs./month even before the landfill ban so they are getting pretty competitive in pricing. In addition to that we will have to decide what kind of service we are going to offer people. Will they need to bring them to the landfill? Anyway, there is a list of ways we can do this and we can discuss this at the Committee level.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am going to jump around a little bit but staying on that topic can you put a television out on the sidewalk now.

Ms. McLaughlin responded you can put a small television out on the sidewalk and the packers will pick it up. If you have a console TV, you can call our bulky collection and we set-up a date where we come and pick it up for no charge.

Alderman O'Neil asked if they are dropped off at the transfer station they are currently landfilled from there.

Ms. McLaughlin answered no Sir. We send them to a demanufacturer. These things are all broken down into parts. The glass is recycled, etc.

Alderman O'Neil asked how do you do that if they are picked up at the curb and thrown in the back of the packer.

Ms. McLaughlin answered no not those.

Alderman O'Neil stated that is what my issue is.

Ms. McLaughlin responded that is what the issue is.

Alderman O'Neil stated the issue won't necessarily be drop-off but the issue is going to be picking up at the curb.

Ms. McLaughlin responded well certainly our crews will know but you are right that is going to add up.

Alderman O'Neil stated I appreciate the heads up on it and I do agree with Alderman Forest that we need to have some plan in place because otherwise they are going to still find places in the City to start dumping them. Were you able to put any number to yard waste tonnage at all?

Ms. McLaughlin replied I spoke with Patrick and they picked up 2,000 tons in November alone.

Alderman O'Neil asked any idea what the increase might be from the previous year.

Ms. McLaughlin answered I haven't looked at that. The numbers we are getting this year are a little bit different. They are averaging out so we are not going to have as good a comparison as we might have.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would encourage because there has been such a poor history of picking up Christmas trees under our former contract that any educational items you can put out, either using MCTV or...I don't know what else to do but I can tell you the public doesn't have a lot of faith in it and if I recall for at least the last few years the Highway Department has had to send its own crews out with dumptrucks just to pick them up because they have been left out there. I don't doubt that our contractor is going to do the job but I don't think the public has a lot of faith based on past experience.

Ms. McLaughlin responded it is in the first two weeks of January.

Alderman Lopez asked when you said an average of an 11% increase, what is our total on recycling.

Ms. McLaughlin asked how much has been recycled to date.

Alderman Forest responded no the total. Is it 22% or 28% or what?

Ms. McLaughlin replied I didn't do the average in total. I can get that to you.

Alderman Lopez asked what did we have before. Is the 11% an increase?

Ms. McLaughlin answered there were some months where we had a 17% increase over the same month the year before but there were also months where it was only a 3% increase. Averaged out it was 6% over those 9 months.

Alderman Lopez asked so we didn't reach 30%.

Ms. McLaughlin answered no Sir.

Alderman Lopez asked are you anticipating coming up with some recommendations as to what we should do.

Ms. McLaughlin stated we are actually setting up a meeting right now...we are going to be working on a new campaign, which is going to focus on the paper, the fiber part of the recycling stream because that is where a lot of the money is and I think that is what people don't realize. We get people doing the containers but I don't think paper is a natural thing for them so if we can hopefully remind people and start pushing the paper part of this...

Alderman Lopez interjected as you are well aware we did a TV show and all of that and I thought we would get more. I thought we would reach 30% by now and if we are not there are some problems somewhere. Are we doing a survey as to why people are not doing it?

Ms. McLaughlin stated we are doing regular outreach opportunities. I am on a speaking tour now and talking to groups. We are doing everything we have been doing in the past in terms of outreach and education.

Alderman Lopez replied the other question I have goes back to the CRT's. Did I understand that they will still be brought to the landfill and you will break them down out there?

Ms. McLaughlin stated we don't break them down there. We put them in a shipping container and the company that demanufactures them comes to pick them up.

Alderman Lopez asked and we will still do that.

Ms. McLaughlin answered yes.

Alderman Lopez asked so the issue we have is getting it out there if people can't put them in the dumpster right.

Ms. McLaughlin answered that is right.

Alderman Lopez stated another recommendation as to what we are going to do when you have these TV's and stuff out there and the sanitation individual doesn't pick it up...that would be another job for the Compliance Officer I guess. Maybe some recommendations along that line.

Ms. McLaughlin responded I have a bunch of them put together for our next meeting.

Alderman O'Neil stated Joanne you said...I wrote this down but maybe I misunderstood you but since the start of the program there has been a 6% increase in paper and an 11% increase in what I wrote down as cans and bottles.

Ms. McLaughlin replied that is right.

Alderman O'Neil asked so we have seen an increase in recycling in the City of Manchester.

Ms. McLaughlin answered yes we have.

Alderman O'Neil stated absolutely positively. Okay, I just wanted to make sure I understood that. So I think we are heading in the right direction and again I revert back to the people not having faith in the previous contractor. They never knew when it was going to be picked up. I can tell you on my street if I don't have it out by 7:15 AM on Tuesday I am in trouble until the next week. I can count on the Pinard truck being by like clockwork on my street and I think that is a credit to Corcoran Environmental and Pinard Waste Services.

Alderman Osborne asked Joanne since the toters were brought in how are we doing with those.

Ms. McLaughlin answered we continue to sell them. They are still going out the door.

Alderman Osborne asked at what pace. Since we first started are they still going out at the same pace?

Ms. McLaughlin answered no not nearly as quickly but we still need to keep an inventory. I don't have the numbers but I can get them to you.

Alderman Osborne asked do you find that one family residences as well as two family residences are participating like I said from the beginning.

Ms. McLaughlin answered definitely. A lot of people are buying them as Christmas presents for other people.

Chairman Roy stated Joanne if you could just go into depth...you talked about the 230-ton increase. Could you briefly put a dollar value on that?

Ms. McLaughlin replied if we use our current tipping fee, which is approximately \$95/ton, that is almost \$15,000.

Chairman Roy stated so just based on the current increase there has already been a savings to the City. Can you touch upon the education of...Alderman O'Neil touched on what we do to tell people about the two weeks in January. I know there are notices about yard waste dates in the paper. Can we talk about how we are going to increase the education?

Ms. McLaughlin responded I can give you a brief report on what we have done since the program began. I have done four or five different radio programs. I have done shows with different Aldermen. We sent out 26,000 utility inserts. We sent out 48,000 mailers in the Spectrum and those go to every single door in the City. For the yard waste season, Corcoran put in six ads - two at the beginning of the season and four over October and November. The City also put one out right after Thanksgiving to remind people that the program was coming to an end. We have had signs on buses. We have had information on MCTV. We have done media print, radio and TV and mailers. We have covered some ground there.

Alderman O'Neil asked Joanne have we been utilizing our own website as much as possible.

Ms. McLaughlin answered absolutely.

Alderman O'Neil stated I was on it not too long ago and I know that Corcoran Environmental has a fabulous website and they have some pictures of the City that are pretty nice. Do we link at all from the City website to Corcoran?

Ms. McLaughlin replied we don't link that way.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if it would help at all.

Ms. McLaughlin replied they link to us but we don't link to them.

Alderman O'Neil asked but we are using the City website as often as possible because from what I understand from the public more and more people go on our website to get information about everything and anything.

Alderman Lopez stated just for conversation, if we went to mandatory recycling how much money do you think and you don't have to answer tonight but could you put something together and give it to the Committee. I am looking at maybe sometime in the winter having a public hearing so to speak to get some input from the public as to whether they would want something like that and so they can understand what mandatory recycling is. A lot of people that I have talked to say they don't have time and don't do it. There has to be some reason why other communities like in Goffstown do it and it works. I know quite a few people in Goffstown and it works very well. Once people get used to recycling how much are they going to save us in money? Is there a formula that you could develop?

Ms. McLaughlin responded the literature says about 80% of what we throw away is recyclable. If we are recycling less than 20%, there is certainly a long way to go. Towns like Peterborough that have mandatory recycling have 90% participation but they are looking at every bag.

Alderman Lopez stated that is sort of part of the educational process that I am speaking of. Is that possible and what would the benefits be? If the public could have some input on this I think it would be worthwhile to pursue. I am not saying we are going to do mandatory recycling but we have to have some answer on this process. I know that you and I and a couple of other people came up with a goal of 30% and now we are talking 6% and 11%. I thought for sure that 30% of the people in the City of Manchester would recycle. Anyway, I would just like you to look at that area and if there is any value maybe in the winter we can have some type of conversation and number wise.

Mr. Sheppard stated I just want to explain when you say 30% of the residents recycle, I think you will find more than 50% of the residents in the City recycling. What we are seeing is maybe only 20% of the total tonnage is recycled. We have probably more than 60% of the people in this City recycling at this point in time. I think Pat will discuss a little bit further...as part of this long-term contract with Corcoran what the City bought into was a single stream program that is going to begin, and I think Pat will update you on when that will begin but we anticipate seeing tonnage go up dramatically once we start a single stream program because the plan is to provide a toter to every resident for recyclables. So now they are not going to have two bins to bring out to the curb every week. They are going to

have a toter that they can just throw their recyclables in. It will be a single stream, co-mingled into one container. It is just like bringing out your trash except you have to sort out the recyclables. Like I said, Pat can discuss that a little bit further. I think that is a program that the City bought into and I think that will be a program that will increase recycling dramatically.

Alderman Lopez replied it is great to hear that 60% of the residents are recycling. That is the point I was missing and somewhere along the line I didn't hear that. Thank you for coming up here. Are we doing recycling downtown?

Ms. McLaughlin responded in City Hall yes but downtown no.

Alderman Lopez asked weren't we going to look at that very seriously or is that down the road.

Mr. Sheppard answered we received a price from Corcoran or from all of the bidders as part of the recycling bids but the City chose not to go with that portion. It is something that could be implemented but there is a cost to it and there are a lot of recyclables in the downtown area. There is a lot of cardboard and glass.

Chairman Roy stated one of the discussions when we looked at the cost value of that is once the MRF station is up and running the cost would be much more feasible and it would make sense to provide the toters and start doing inner City every day recycling. I think that is not far off and if we get to Patrick's presentation we might hear the words spring of 2008 quite often so we may be able to continue that discussion later.

Alderman Osborne asked do the schools recycle.

Mr. Sheppard answered the schools have a separate contract with Waste Management and I believe as part of that they do recycle. At one time we oversaw the recycling programs in the schools because of our contract with Waste Management at the time. When the City went out with RFP's for recycling, the School District chose to tie in with Waste Management because of their solid waste collection. Joanne does go into different schools and meet with different groups but enforcement of that...I don't want to say enforcement but we try to encourage that but they have a separate contract for recycling within the schools.

Alderman Osborne asked when you were talking about mandatory recycling, what are the legalities of that and how much teeth does that have.

Ms. McLaughlin answered there are municipalities in the State of NH that do have mandatory recycling and they have very good recycling numbers. I can say that it

is legal in the state. It is always going to come down to education and enforcement.

Alderman Osborne asked if some people don't want to do this what happens.

Ms. McLaughlin answered there is a fining mechanism and an educational mechanism.

Alderman Osborne stated in the inner City is a little tough because some of the people throw it out their third floor window. It is a tough situation. That is true. It is pretty hard to prove when it comes to policing and all of that. If you are forcing them to do that it is probably going to get a little worse in my ward. I don't know about all of the wards but some others I am sure too like Ward 4 and 7 and some on the West Side. Anyway, I just wanted to know how much teeth it really had. There is no jail term or anything right? It is just a matter of fines and then you have to catch them in order to fine them. It is a tough, tough situation. I can understand that it will make another 10%, 15% or 20% do it but I don't think we will ever get 100% participation.

Patrick Corcoran, Corcoran Environmental Services, stated thank you for asking me to join you today. First of all, Alderman Osborne, the concept of mandatory recycling and what we have seen over the last 15 years is more of compliance and encouragement through education. We service a number of these communities that have mandatory recycling now and in the town where my other office is we have mandatory recycling and it is encouraged. There isn't a fine associated with it, but there is a social behavior that if you are not recycling and the communities are not participating in recycling it is like what is wrong with you? You are not trying to save the world for the kids or the future. It is really a social thing that happens. The city of Portsmouth has mandatory recycling. Dover has mandatory recycling. When you get into some of these other large communities with streets and tight downtown areas they are encouraging and getting compliance with mandatory recycling. A lot of it has to do with education. You can not go mandatory without the educational aspect. One of the big things we have been trying with Joanne's help and the Public Works office is really putting a lot of push on getting additional material out of your waste stream.

Alderman Osborne asked what percentage do you think it would be brought up to with mandatory recycling. Is it still 20% of the people who don't bother?

Mr. Corcoran answered I would say it is a lot less than that. The other thing talking about schools is they are a great place to do another educational outreach. We have had great success, again with contracts we are managing, going into the school system with...they call it Recycling Week in Maine and they have

recycling bonus points and things like that and if you get compliance and participation from the children, the children bring it home to their parents and their families and the next thing you know you have another social ability to change what is happening at your house. It is working. Unfortunately we weren't chosen to manage the school system in this particular round. We hope down the road when the plant is up and running that we will be able to tackle that project for the school system.

Alderman O'Neil asked does anybody know the terms of the School District solid waste contract. It is hard to educate the kids without getting into the schools and if there is not an aggressive program in the schools for recycling you are not going to get the young people to do it at home.

Mr. Sheppard answered I don't remember the terms of their contract. I don't believe it was a long-term contract. It may have been three to five years with their solid waste contract and I assume they are piggybacking on with their recycling collection.

Alderman O'Neil asked is that something you folks can explore and see if there is a possibility down the road of merging the school program in. Obviously we would have to get the School District to buy in but it seems like for the recycling numbers to go even higher we need to, as Patrick said, encourage it in the schools and I think the kids take it home and set good examples for their parents in many cases. If that is something you can have a discussion with the School District about some time that would be great.

Alderman Duval stated Alderman O'Neil must have read my mind. It seems to me that that is an integral component of the future success of the recycling program in the City to work collaboratively with the School District to get them on board with the same program. Along those lines, it would be nice to have a report back to the full Board regarding what the arrangement currently is with the School District and then trying to lay the groundwork with School Committee members to see if we can expand the same services provided by Corcoran and Pinard to the School District. I think that would be to the City's advantage. I don't know if you can speculate but I would imagine a tremendous amount of tonnage comes out of the School District.

Mr. Sheppard responded we have worked with the School District in the past. Joanne has actually done training with the custodial staff in the School District. I believe during the summer months they have a week or two of training and Joanne has done training with the custodians. It is just something they need to stay on top of. If it is not encouraged by staff then it is difficult to stay on top of that but we will follow-up with the School District on that.

Mr. Corcoran stated next let me give you a couple of highlights. We are actually on target or almost ahead of schedule for getting this thing going. During negotiations we worked out a three-year window from the time we got the permit until the time we were actually operational. We might be six to eight months ahead of that. To give you a rough idea, we have already hired CMA Engineers out of Portsmouth to get our solid waste and recycling permit. They are already well on their way. They plan on having this submitted to NH DES by the end of January and we are told we should have zero problems getting through NH DES. Secondly, we are meeting with contractors and as a matter of fact today we met with contractors all day long for design-build of the structure. They are looking at a four to six month build out. Finally, financing has already been approved so as they say the ducks are lined up and things are right on target. I can answer any specific questions you have but things are working on the backside.

Alderman Osborne stated I just want to go off a little bit and get back to Joanne for one question. On the bulk pick-up, the cherry picker as we call it, how is that coming along with all of these couches, refrigerators, etc?

Ms. McLaughlin responded there is always plenty to do but right now we are not backed up too much. I think we are making appointments a couple of days ahead.

Alderman Osborne stated I know I have a lot in my ward and I was just wondering how we do the whole City with one person. That is quite a task.

Mr. Sheppard replied I can expand on that a little bit. We have our highs and lows. We have had times when we have been two to three weeks out. One thing that was brought to this Committee in the past was a fee for curbside pick up of bulky items. That was not passed on to the Board level. We have seen that as a concern. I think some of the Aldermen here perhaps have gotten calls from residents when we schedule them three weeks out for bulky goods pick up. We recommended in the past a fee for a lot of the bulky goods pick up. The CFC items there is a fee but for larger items such as couches and things like that right now that is free. I guess to expand on that and the reason I say that is I believe we had come up with a program where every resident would get two or three a year and the reason we would offer that is because the typical resident may have two or three pick ups a year. What we are seeing is the multi-family property owners, every time somebody moves out of their building, they call us to pick up the stuff that is left behind so we see what we consider the commercial sector using this service to take their material at curbside versus them bringing it to the drop off. Our proposal was to allow I believe two free pick-ups per year per address but that was not passed.

Alderman Lopez stated you sort of read my mind because I know some Aldermen had problems in some of their wards. Who is in charge of coordinating to make sure that they only get two pick-ups?

Mr. Sheppard replied right now the way our policy works and like I said we brought it to this Committee but it didn't move forward but right now you can call every week to get something picked up at the curb. We have no policy.

Chairman Roy asked can I just clarify something for the public. This Committee passed the recommendation that each address would have two free pick-ups and then there would be a charge beyond that. It got nullified at the full Board. It was a vote that did not pass so as we look for cost savings and use words like mandatory recycling there are programs that we have that are abused by a select few that have not been addressed by the full Board but have come from this Committee.

Alderman Lopez stated I don't think some of the people at the Highway Department know that because they are telling people they can only have two pick ups a year.

Mr. Sheppard asked are you saying that residents are being told that from the Highway Department.

Alderman Lopez answered yes. I think something has to be done on that. Anyway the information is coming from there because I personally called down there and they said you can have two picks-ups a year. I want to make sure because I told the individual no why don't you just pay \$25 and have somebody pick it up. I think we ought to revisit that.

Alderman Forest stated I guess there have been a lot of things that have been brought back to us over and over and over again. I think what goes around comes around and I would like to move that we bring this back up to the full Board and have Kevin explain what is going on and maybe we can get some Aldermen to change their minds. We have been sending Matt and his NET team out there to go after certain landlords and if we are not giving them the ordinances and the provisions for them to do their work...I would like to move that we resurrect the two free pick ups a year and send it back to the full Board.

Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Osborne asked are you able to police this Kevin.

Mr. Sheppard answered if that was implemented what we would do is track the pick-ups by address and that way we would be able to tell what addresses have been picked up once or twice and beyond that there would be a fee. We would just have to start tracking that.

Alderman Osborne stated I guess half is better than none. In other words, if we can get a few of these that abuse it to pay we are ahead of the game.

Alderman Thibault stated one thing I would like to bring up is that if there are only two pick ups and then there is a charge what happens is if you are in a ward that has several rural locations out of the way a little bit you end up with all of that stuff on that land and in some people's backyards. How many times have I called Highway to clean up because somebody just threw it there? If you are going to charge them, they are not going to pay. They are going to throw it away someplace else and we end up picking it up anyway. I think we have to find a better method of tracking who is bringing that stuff up. I think that if you go to the absentee landlord problem that is where you are going to see your problem. I think that these landlords should be sent a letter saying when you have a tenant move out you are responsible for taking care of the debris. That would probably be a better way to go than just fining them because fining them you are going to find it in my backyard and in other people's backyards on the West Side. It has been done before.

Mr. Sheppard responded that is a good point. If this was implemented, we would get a letter out to the multi-family property owners and I believe we have list of addresses on all of those and inform them of the new policy. You are right. I am a homeowner in Manchester and I might call a bulky truck once every two years. We said twice a year, which I think for most typical homeowners in the City they don't call more than once a year. What we said is twice a year and I think for the typical homeowner that is more than enough. It is the multi-families that call us every month for pick-ups and that is where we feel the system may be being abused.

Mr. Corcoran stated one of our responsibilities is to continue to find more material in this area so when we build the single stream plant we will have a trail coming into this plant that we will be controlling. We were just awarded the town of Hudson's collection contract for both solid waste and recycling and we were also responsible for the bulky waste pick up in the town of Hudson, which is a policy change for them. They used to offer a free pick-up and have decided to move to a user fee program and they initially got some resentment and some hardship but they immediately moved away from free pick up because it was being abused and they went to a fee schedule.

Alderman Duval stated I think it has been said and I think there is evidence out there that suggests the violators are repeat offenders and multi-family homes, not single family residences. I am of the strong opinion that they should be paying from the get go. I don't think there should be any freebies. I think we should work with the income producing property owners of this community to collaboratively address this but they should be held responsible and if they have to go back to the tenant's security deposits to get pay for those collection fees, then I think they ought to do it. It is a big problem in my area and I know other inner City Aldermen have the same problems. Kevin, you know as well as I do that I am on the phone with you with the same addresses over and over again. You get up there one day and the next day there are a couple of mattresses left on the sidewalk in front of their property. I can tell you right now it is not fair. It is an abuse of services as far as I am concerned and absentee landlords have to cooperate with us to address this and they should be paying from the first pick up to the last.

Alderman Lopez asked Kevin is this strictly a policy and not an ordinance.

Mr. Sheppard answered it would be a policy.

Alderman Lopez asked do you have the policy with you tonight. I wonder if you can address that because I am trying to remember...I know when the multi-families were going to be charged extra or have their own dumpsters that that failed. I would just like to check the policy on the twice a year pick up.

Mr. Sheppard answered sure. I believe those policies, like you said that policy along with the one we are talking about now were brought forward to the Board at one time and I don't believe any of those passed at that time as Alderman Roy said.

Alderman Lopez responded I don't recollect that.

Mr. Sheppard stated I can double-check that. What I would recommend is versus bringing it to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen tonight maybe what we do is come back at your next meeting in January with a formal proposal of how we would implement a plan like that laying out an education process for multi-family property owners and how we would enforce it so we have a plan in place versus just voting on it tonight and not being ready for it tomorrow.

Chairman Roy stated as Chairman I was going to use a little latitude and ask that the motion be restated that you do all of those things and bring it to us for our meeting in January. That basically gives you a month to get whatever ordinances you need drafted and a policy drafted and a fee schedule drafted to bring to the full

Board. If the maker of the motion likes that suggestion, I think that would be the most effective way to get it to the full Board.

Alderman Forest stated I would agree with that suggestion. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know we are getting a little short on time but could Mr. Corcoran just explain...he mentioned the town of Hudson and bulk items being in the contract they were awarded and it tied to the opening...maybe I misunderstood you and it doesn't have anything to do with the Material Recovery Facility, but I thought you said something about that.

Mr. Corcoran responded it doesn't. It is three separate responsibilities. We are managing the curbside collection for recyclables. We are managing the trash and we are also managing the bulky items so it is three separate items.

Alderman O'Neil asked do we have expectations that even though we may continue to pick up the bulk items that they will be going to the facility on Dunbarton Road.

Mr. Sheppard answered I don't believe that facility will accept materials that we pick up with the bulky truck.

Alderman O'Neil replied well I guess I misunderstood what Patrick said. I thought there was a tie in with bulky items and the new facility.

Mr. Corcoran responded no. The recycling material that we are picking up in Hudson will be coming to this facility.

Alderman Osborne stated when Alderman Duval was talking about the absentee landlords and the multi-families, I have a lot of those problems in my ward. You can't always blame absentee landlords for the situation so I think if we are going to have two freebies for people it should be for them as well because what happens with a lot of these absentee landlords is they live out of town and the people who are living in these apartments are what I call nightriders. In other words they are there one day and the next day they are gone and all of their stuff is out on the sidewalk. I physically took all kinds of furniture off of a property to get it on the sidewalk because the people around there were tired and it was beginning to smell. I physically did it myself so I know what the situation is out there. It is kind of hard to penalize people because they are absentee landlords in a sense. I think they will pay attention if you give them one or two free and they know a third one is coming up. They are going to have to educate their tenants by taking a deposit

from them knowing that after they leave if the place isn't cleaned...I think this is the way to go.

Alderman Smith stated we have a serious problem over on the West Side. I talked to Kevin about it tonight. Right now I have six locations with debris. I have a meeting with Leon LaFreniere tomorrow but it seems like sometimes we can't find the homeowner. We don't even know who owns the building. There is a problem with the multi-families and we are trying to clean up an area around West and Granite Street and Parker Avenue. I have six places that haven't been in compliance and they have been cited three or four times and the same situation occurs. I don't know what the answer is but I will give you one. On West Street I asked Mr. Sheppard to pick up sofas and everything and the next day the debris was out there again so I had to call them up again. They were out there three days and we can't find out who the homeowner is.

Chairman Roy responded thanks Alderman. That sounds like a great endorsement for a Solid Waste Compliance Officer if I ever heard one.

Chairman Roy called for a vote on the motion to have the Highway Department come back to the Committee in January with a policy for bulky item pick-ups. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Roy asked Patrick do you have any additional comments.

Mr. Corcoran stated some other things that are happening is the competition has awoken and we have stirred the pot a little bit so that the folks here in New England know that there is going to be a single stream plant coming, which is absolutely fabulous. They are helping to get the word out. We have between 20 and 30 other communities very excited about what is coming down the road and they, too, are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to bring their material to this facility. Other than that, we greatly appreciate all of your support. If you have any questions certainly some of you know you can get in touch with me but if others don't you can best reach me by e-mail. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve the City.

Alderman O'Neil stated before we end tonight I want to give Patrick and Ed and their associates from Corcoran Environmental and the people from Pinard Waste a plug because they really are doing a fabulous job. I get no complaints – zero regarding recycling or yard waste. Zero. They deserve credit because they work very hard at this to make it work. I shouldn't forget Joanne and the staff at Highway. They are the ones who recommended that this was the right firm to go with and it certainly was.

Chairman Roy stated I think those sentiments are echoed throughout all of the wards in the City. Joanne there are a number of things as time winds down that I am going to request come from Highway. We are coming into the budget season and department heads are starting to look at numbers regarding their employees and vacancies. The first two are to review any cost savings we may have in regards to solid waste or recycling. Part of that are any cost cutting ideas. I would ask you to review the School District contract as Alderman O'Neil requested and I would also like it if you could summarize last year's use of recycling and percentage increases if it is possible to do on a spreadsheet monthly. That would be fantastic for the Aldermen to see. I know you mentioned that some months we had a 17% increase. I would like to see if we can build on some of those successes. 6% is a nice number and 11% is a nice number but I would like to see those up in the 30% increase range so if you could summarize the use in percentages. Also, I know we have had a dramatic drop in calls and complaints. If there is a way to statistically say last year we had this many calls and this year we have had this many I think that would be something that would surprise the people out there, as well as anything you see whether it is the Solid Waste Compliance Officer or the NET Team positions or anything you can see that will help us. I know that our Parks Director is in the back of the room and he has some concerns about park lands so if you could make suggestions about the bulky waste and what we could do to decrease costs or increase revenue it would be greatly appreciated.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee